



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
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FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mrs. Anne S. Hill  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2010**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Present**

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña  
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio  
Barbara Bigby  
Rita Hall  
Anne S. Hill  
Carl Moore

##### **Excused Absence**

John Hammargren

##### **Guest**

Allan Henry, California Community Care Licensing  
Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services  
Cesar Menchala, Internal Services Department  
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services  
Eric Kuehl, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Jim Nicoles, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department  
Commander Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Sandra Petrocelli, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Tosin Adenmosui, California Community Care Licensing

Staff

Lee Millen

Nyla Jefferson

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**Sheriff's Department**

Commander Margaret Ruiz, LASD, distributed the Inmate Assaults on Staff Report and the Racial Demographics for all Custody Divisions, and introduced three sworn personnel from Custody Support Services (CSS) that provide overall support to the Sheriff's Department, including the inspection of jails.

Sergeant Sandra Petrocelli, CSS, is responsible for the issues that affect the custody division as a whole. CSS provides training, addresses policies, responds to agencies such as the ACLU, prepares reports for the Department of Justice and Board of Corrections, and inspects jails in accordance with the law. The current project is working with the station jails.

Deputy Jim Nicoles, LASD, reported that CSS inspects the jails twice a year to prepare the stations for any anticipated inspections held throughout the year. Improvements that have been implemented are the regional user group e-mail for every staff person in the jail, regional meetings with administrative staff to ensure that jails run efficiently, and improved communication among jails. Also, annually the Command Inspection is conducted which examines the entire operation. A Corrective Standards Representative also inspects the jails to ensure all Title 15 guidelines are implemented. Commander Ruiz added that each division/region has its own Command inspector; she will provide a copy of the inspection form and the Corrective Standards reports for the Commission's review.

Sgt. Petrocelli requested a copy of the Commission's station inspections in order to incorporate the Commission's data with the CSS, and reference that data during their internal inspections. She also agreed to recommend that the LASD Terrorism Liaison Officers ensure terrorist training is provided to jailers.

(Commissioner Hill joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.)

Commander Ruiz advised that LASD is preparing to implement the reflective tape in County jails as demonstrated in the Pico Rivera Station. In response to Chair Montano, Commander Ruiz reported that Captain Amus is off duty recovering from his surgery; the Commission wished him a speedy recovery.

Deputy Nicoles reported that the Command Inspection Reports are located in the Operation's office of each jail and contain a Jail Operations section. Scheduled Command Inspections vary in each region.

## **Department of Children and Family Services**

Dorothy Channel, DCFS, advised that Elizabeth Howard was unable to attend today's meeting, and reported that there have been 16 referrals for general neglect, 9 are pending, 3 unfounded, 3 evaluated out and 1 inconclusive. There were 25 physical abuse referrals, 19 were evaluated out, 5 are pending and 1 was unfounded. There were 7 sexual abuse referrals with 3 evaluated out and 4 are pending. The runaways for the month are 277, which may include some repeat runaways.

The Pioneer Boys Ranch has voluntarily closed. The Board of Supervisors declared March as Family Reunification Month; media reports were distributed regarding DCFS offices' and its successful program. Annually the comedian Kat Williams hosts a basketball fundraiser for scholarship and last year \$12,000 was raised. Ms. Channel will notify the Commission of its next fundraiser scheduled in July 2010.

The 2009 One Child at a Time Scholarship recipients list was distributed of applicants that received \$500 -\$1000. Data has proven that the majority of the children from the Glass Homes are doing better with the assistance from the Gay and Lesbian Center. Also, Ms. Channel requested that Chairperson Montaña email her the names/locations of youth having difficulty adjusting, and noted that she will provide Commissioner Hill with information concerning funding for emancipated youth aspiring to attend college. Further, the acronym RCL is Rate Classification Level.

Chair Montaña shared a LA Times article about a teacher encouraging fights in a Probation Camp classroom.

## **Probation Department**

Lisa Campbell-Motton, PD, Director of Placement Quality Assurance, reported that any staff accused of alleged abuse against a minor is suspended pending an investigation or is moved to another location away from the child. It is difficult to determine when an investigation concludes; it all depends on the attorney, if it's a criminal case, a grievance or an appeal. The Interim Chief is Carl Remington, and it is anticipated that in April/May 2010 Don Blevins will become the new Chief Probation Officer.

There were 100 runaways, 3 girls ran away twice, 38 returned, 14 re-established at the home, 12 are in juvenile hall and 5 are in camp. Also, youth are allowed to leave in that they are not incarcerated, however, intervention is provided. There were 20 referrals that were all evaluated out.

Commissioner Bigby reported that she attended a recent Probation Department meeting with foster children and commended Art Mayfield, Probation Department, for an excellent presentation that advised them of their rights and programs available.

Ms. Campbell-Motton noted that a Probation Department monitoring report of A Touch of Life will be provided to the Commission at its next meeting. Also, staff receives a mandatory 40 hours of specialized training annually; failure to do so will result in

disciplinary action. Following discussion, Commissioner Hall offered to be the Secret Santa of the parent who is adopting a probation youth and his siblings.

### **Community Care Licensing**

Allan Henry, CCL, reported that CPR training, crisis intervention training to de-escalate fights, and other training are required of staff/supervisors of Group Homes. A CCL representative visited A Touch of Life Group Home on March 11, 2010, and a copy of the Corrective Report was provided. On March 6, 2010, a regulatory action requiring staff not to smoke in buildings or on the grounds of a group home, and in a vehicle was passed. Mr. Henry introduced Mr. Tosin Adenmosui, Group Home Analyst, who reported that he monitors Group Homes in the San Fernando Valley. Also, he commended the Commission's efforts in inspecting Group Homes, and distributed the revised Rate Classification Level (RCL) increases that have not yet been implemented. Further, Mr. Henry advised that although a Group Homes may have a vehicle maintenance log in their Plan of Action, it is not required. However, maintaining a comfortable temperature of no lower than 68 nor higher than 85 degrees in Group Homes is required.

### **Internal Services Department**

Cesar Menchala, Internal Services Department, advised that are no new reportable actions to report.

### **Auditor Controller's Department**

No representative in attendance.

### **Mental Health Department**

No representative in attendance.

Chairperson Montaña thanked everyone for their informative presentations.

### **APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of March 10, 2010 were approved.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

- Chairperson Montaña attended the West Angeles Church of God in Christ Annual Law Enforcement, Firefighter and Military Appreciation Day on March 14, 2010 and commended the hosts for a wonderful presentation.
- She discussed the Daily Breeze newspaper article, *Hospital Chief Charged with Molestation* (2/25/10).
- Other newspaper articles discussed were from the LA Times, *Teacher held in Fight Probe* (3/17/10), and *Death of Child, 2, in Foster Care Probed* (3/16/10).

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1, 718.93.

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS FROM FEBRUARY 12, 2010 TO FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

**Dream Catcher Foundation – 14, #2 - Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on March 8, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Activity schedule was not posted and seven day food supply was low. February and March activity calendars were faxed to the Commission office.

**Dream Catcher Foundation – 14, #3 - Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on March 9, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Disaster drills are conducted once every three months; the Commissioners requested conducting the drills monthly.

**You Are the Difference Foundation (Living Life Home II) – 47, #4 – Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on March 11, 2010, however, there was no one home.

**Eggleston Youth Center (Transition House) – 16, #3 – Vice Chairperson Bacio** The facility was visited on March 11, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Bathroom #2 hot water valve needs replacing; the Needs and Services Plans are 6 months out-of-date; refill one of the First Aid Kits, and the hallway smoke detector is not working.

**Bourne Inc. (Borne Inc.) – 3, #1 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill** The facility was visited on March 12, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** The oven door and kitchen cabinet door need to be repaired or replaced. Overall the home has made great improvements.

**Ettie Lee Home – 18, #4 – Chairperson Montaña and Vice Chairperson Bacio** The facility was visited on March 16, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** First Aid Kit needs restocking.

**You Are the Difference Foundation (Living Life Home II) – 47, #4 – Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on March 15, 2010, however, there was no one home.

## **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Hall reported that she will not be attending the March 24, 2010 Commission meeting due to a schedule conflict.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.